

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE No. 7

APRIL 14, 2004

It's YOUR Newspaper

## New HIV Test Yields Results in 20 Minutes

■ FDA approves oral testing device with 99 percent accuracy.

By JOHANA MAAS  
STAFF WRITER

Blood work won't be necessary for most HIV testing now that the FDA has approved OraQuick, an oral device that produces results within minutes with 99 percent accuracy.

OraSure Technologies Inc. is providing its HIV-1 Oral Fluid Specimen Device as the only FDA-approved mechanism that collects oral fluid to test for antibodies to the HIV-1 virus, according to the company's website, [www.orasure.com](http://www.orasure.com).

With the new device, patients won't have to wait two weeks for results as they currently must with blood tests. With one clinic visit, OraQuick will provide results within 20 minutes and no blood samples are required.

"We have delivered a revolutionary technology," Mike Gausling, President and Chief Executive Officer of OraSure Technologies said in a recent press release. "Its simplicity will enable more people to be tested and to receive treatment sooner. It is a major breakthrough for rapid diagnostic testing."

**With the new device, patients won't have to wait two weeks for results.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 900,000 of the 4 million people living with AIDS are U.S. citizens and a quarter of those 900,000 are not aware that they are infected.

"This oral test provides another important option for people who might be afraid of a blood test," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson in the OraSure press release. "It will improve care for these people and improve the public health as well."

The dangers for health workers of being exposed to needle pricks from blood tests will be reduced with the new testing. Patient procedure will be quicker and more efficient - for the test, a treated cotton swab is wiped along the gums and then inserted into the testing device for quick results.

As with current blood tests, in the event of a positive result, the clinic will usually attempt to verify the finding with further tests, which may include blood draws.

"The FDA's approval of ... OraSure's new HIV test is a giant step forward in combating the global AIDS crisis. This simple test ... gives new hope to those at risk of this dreaded disease," said Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA). "OraQuick must be the new standard test for HIV testing, both in the U.S. and abroad."

California is the second leading state in the United States with reported AIDS cases, with an estimated 128,064. New York has approximately 155,755 reported cases. In 2001, there were 14,175 AIDS deaths in the entire United States, according to the CDC.

### NOTHING UP MY SLEEVE ...



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

**ON A WING AND A PRAYER** - Since 1930, Olvera Street in Los Angeles has been the site of the annual "Blessing of the Animals." Here, Cardinal Mahony releases a dove to begin the ceremony Saturday.

### VALLEY PEOPLE

## It's Spanish for Spanish Speakers

■ Class teaches advanced grammar to fluent speakers.

By SAM HAHN  
STAFF WRITER

Valley professor Maria Elena Francis-Benitez walked into her eager Spanish 36 Monday evening and exclaimed "¡Ay... chocolates! Quien los trajo!"

The class erupted in laughter as Benitez tried to guess who brought the chocolates in.

Spanish 36 is for people who are fluent in Spanish but need to polish their grammar. Anyone taking a quick glance at Benitez's class might think that

the atmosphere was more of a casual get-together rather than an actual college course. Benitez is a diminutive ball of energy, talking as much with her hands as her mouth. Her enthusiasm rubs off on her students.

"The class is very energetic," said Eduardo Gutiérrez. "Everyone is excited about learning the material... because [the professor] is so energetic, I think it carries over to the class."

please see *Benitez* page 4



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**ESPAÑOL** - Professor Maria Elena Francis-Benitez, founder of the Spanish Class for Native Speakers, with her Tuesday evening class.

## Lewd And at Large

■ Police just miss having a stroke of luck in case of onerous onanist.

By JACQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Sheriff's Department is looking for a male suspect who has been seen masturbating in various campus buildings within the last month.

The most recent incident occurred in the business journalism building March 29 at approximately 12:30 p.m.. An unidentified female witness spotted the suspect while on her way to class. He was alone in one of the classrooms, masturbating with the door ajar, according to police. The witness notified a teacher who went to the class and asked the suspect to leave, and then called police.

When police arrived the alleged masturbator had already fled. A search of the area was conducted but the police were unable to locate him.

The suspect is described as African American, 20-30 years old, with black hair, approximately 5'10" and 150 pounds. He was wearing light colored hospital scrubs, according to the witness.

please see *Lewd* page 2

## "Denim Day" Publicizes Sexual Assault Awareness

■ Protest is inspired by Italian rape case.

By JACQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union at Valley College in conjunction with the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) is asking students, staff and faculty to join them in protest of assaults on women April 21, the designated Denim Day L.A. 2004.

"The purpose is to raise awareness on assaults against women," said James Brevard, president of the ASU. "We're asking everyone to wear denim on the 21st as a show of solidarity."

Denim Day is a public education campaign to dispel harmful attitudes about rape in response to a 1999 Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans.

The court believed that the victim must have helped her attacker remove her jeans, which they decided implied consent.

Women of the Italian Legislature were the first to protest by wearing jeans after the decision became public. The LACAAW held its first protest in April 1999 and has continued to do so every year since. More than 55,000 people throughout the county participated in Denim Day L.A. 2003 including elected officials, community members, businesses and students, according to organizers.

"This is something we will continue to do every year as a way of focusing people's attention on sexual assault," said Jennifer Luck, resource development coordinator for the LACAAW. "This year with the Kobe Bryant case, the way the victim is being treated by the media is very telling ... there's still a lot of work to do in the community and education that needs to happen."

The LACAAW will host a rally downtown at the Los Angeles Civic Center Mall April 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jeans-clad members from the Los Angeles City Council will attend and sign a proclamation officially designating April 21 Denim Day. Calista Flockhart, the national spokesperson for the LACAAW, will also speak.

Nearly 1.3 women in the United States are forcibly raped each minute, with one in two victims being less than 18 years old, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, and nearly 3 percent of college women will experience a completed or attempted rape during the school year.

In a study done between 1992 and 2000 by the Department of Justice, there were 140,990 completed rapes reported, 109,230 attempted rapes and 152,680 sexual assaults in the United States.

Los Angeles experienced a 15 percent decline in the last two years. In 2003 there were 1,117 rapes reported and another 277 since January 2004, according to Los Angeles Police Department crime statistics, with the highest incidences occurring in the San Fernando Valley.

As many as 85 percent of rapes go unreported because the victim fears retaliation from her attacker, is embarrassed because she feels she did something to encourage it or fears police bias, according to Stephanie Prince, program director for the Valley Trauma Center in Van Nuys.

"Our hotline receives 1,500 to 2,000 calls per year," Prince said. "Volunteers accompany victims to the hospital an average of 60 to 70 times per month."

Anyone interested in attending the rally downtown can contact the LACAAW at (213) 955-9090 or visit its website at [www.denimdayinla.org](http://www.denimdayinla.org).

## No Blood For Grades

■ Professor offers extra credit for students who donate blood to Red Cross bone marrow registry program.

By SUSAN MALTBY  
STAFF WRITER

It can take blood, sweat and tears to make it through college... especially blood.

Physiology students in professor Joe Franz's class earned three points of extra credit on Tuesday, March 30 when they donated blood to register as potential bone marrow donors.

"I wanted my students to register with the Red Cross as potential bone marrow donors and possibly save lives," said Franz.

At least 12 students took advantage of the extra credit offer by donating a blood sample and entering their tissue type into the American Red Cross Bone Marrow Registry.

Each year, 30,000 new patients are diagnosed with leukemia, aplastic anemia or any of 60 other life-threatening diseases that could

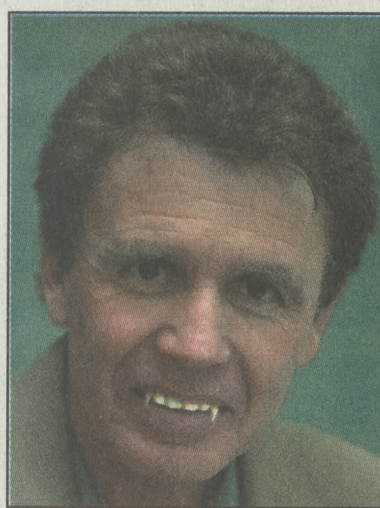


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

**I WANT YOUR BLOOD** - Professor Joe Franz throws students a bone in the form of extra credit.

be cured with a marrow transplant, if a match is found.

Marrow is found in the cavities of the body's bones. It resembles

please see *Blood* page 2

## Valley Star Wins Top Honor at JACC

■ Third straight "General Excellence" award precedes first "Pacesetter" since '80s.

By MICHAEL ORDONA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The staff and advisers of The Valley Star were honored with what is believed to be their first Pacesetter award since the early '80s at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges statewide conference in Los Angeles last weekend. The award, given to only four publications this year, represents JACC's highest honor.

"It was truly a collective effort of Valley Star staff coupled with the guidance of our advisers," said Fall 2003 Editor in Chief Krista Carlson. "There was a lot of hard work that went into this ...

The next test is to see if the future staff upholds this honor."

The conference, held at the Wilshire Grand hotel in downtown Los Angeles, spanned four days and included more than 60 schools from all over California, with two from Arizona and one from Ohio. The event featured competitions for mail-in entries from the Fall 2003 semester, bring-in entries prepared the week before the conference and on-the-spot contests.

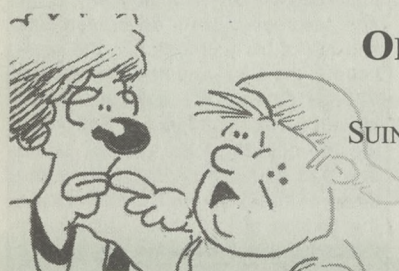
When the points from the mail-in categories were totaled, The Star was deemed one of the top five community college newspapers in its region for the third consecutive semester, earning the "General

Excellence" honor.

When the points from the bring-in and spot competitions were added, The Star was named a "Pacesetter," one of the best in the entire state, winning 18 awards in all.

Among the staff's individual winners, photographer Jorge Gallegos received nods for his work in news and sports, bringing his career total to 12 JACC awards. Photographer Scott Howard collected a first place plaque for his spot feature photo; and photographer, writer and former Valley Life editor Tammy Abbott took home the top mail-in prize for her couple

please see *Pacesetter* page 2



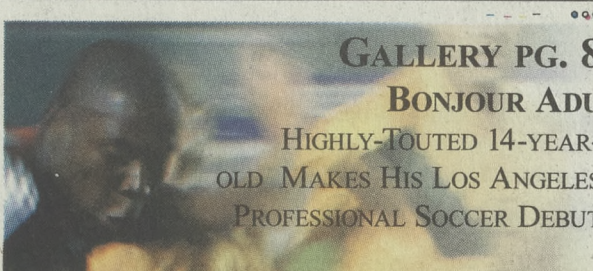
**OPINION PG. 3**  
**FAT CHANCE**  
SUING YOUR WAY TO  
BETTER HEALTH



**VALLEY LIFE PG. 4**  
**BIG BUCKET O' HELL**  
THREE FILM REVIEWS:  
DAWN OF THE DEAD  
HELLBOY  
THE LADY KILLERS



**SPORTS PG. 6**  
**HANGING BY A THREAD**  
LADY MONARCHS DROP THEIR  
LAST FIVE GAMES, ONE AT  
HOME AND FOUR AWAY



**GALLERY PG. 8**  
**BONJOUR ADU**  
HIGHLY-TOUTED 14-YEAR-  
OLD MAKES HIS LOS ANGELES  
PROFESSIONAL SOCCER DEBUT



## NEWS REEL

AMERICAN HELD  
HOSTAGE IN IRAQ:

At least one American civilian contractor is being held hostage in Iraq. The hostage takers had threatened to kill Thomas Hamil, 43, last weekend, but no word of his fate has been received.

American military officials announced that two soldiers and seven employees of a subsidiary of Halliburton Co. remain missing after an attack on their convoy near the city of Fallujah. Nearly 700 Americans have been killed in Iraq since hostilities began last year, according to reports.

## RENO TESTIFIES:

Former Attorney General Janet Reno testified Tuesday before the 9/11 Commission that she did not remember briefing incoming Attorney General John Ashcroft of the threat posed by Al Qaeda during the transfer of power in January 2001, CNN reported.

Reno said she informed Ashcroft that information about terrorism threats needed to be "pulled together" and that she felt frustrated by the lack of "organizational structure" in the FBI.

"[The FBI] didn't know what they had," Reno said.

## CAMPUS EYE

SUMMER SCHEDULE NOW  
AVAILABLE:

New schedule of classes is now available at Admissions and online at [www.lavc.edu](http://www.lavc.edu)

CAL STATE CHANNEL  
ISLANDS:

Wednesday, April 14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Monarch Square (see bottom for information).

**UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM:**  
Thursday, April 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monarch Square (see bottom for information).

CAREER EXPLORATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
WORKSHOP:

Thursday, April 15, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., FL106 (see bottom for more information).

A.S.U. INTER CLUB  
COUNCIL MEETING:

Thursday, April 15, 1 p.m., CC104 (Call the A.S.U. office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

## DEAN'S RECEPTION:

Thursday, April 15, 2 p.m., Monarch Hall (Call A.S.U. office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

## UC DAVIS:

Monday, April 19, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Career/Transfer Center, Administration bldg, room 126 (see bottom for more information).

A.S.U. EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL BOARD  
ELECTIONS:

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 20 and 21, Monarch Square (Call A.S.U. office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

## CSUN:

Tuesday, April 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Career/Transfer Center, Administration bldg, room 126 (see bottom for more information).

A.S.U. EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL MEETING:

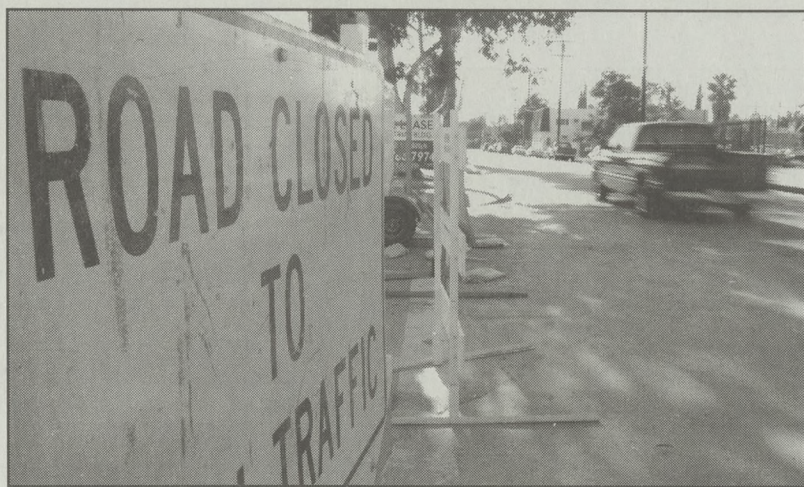
Tuesday, April 20, 12:45 p.m., CC104 (Call A.S.U. office at 818-778-5516 for more information).

**COLLEGE/MAJORS FAIR:**  
Wednesday, April 21, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (see bottom for more information).

Students must sign-up in advance in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration Bldg., room 126, or call Barbara Schneider at (818) 947-2646.

## MTA Improves Service

■ Construction underway on Metro's exclusive 14-mile bus lane.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

**ORANGE APPEAL** - Construction continues along the 14-mile Metro Orange Line, which will connect Warner Center and North Hollywood.

By TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
STAFF WRITER

With the current increase in gas prices and the nightmarish conditions drivers face on freeways like US-101 or I-405, southern Californians are increasingly looking towards alternate forms of transportation.

However, many residents in

the San Fernando Valley are unsatisfied with what they consider the inferior quantity and quality of transit bus service.

"The (Metropolitan Transit Authority) MTA should increase the frequency of bus service on major streets like De Soto or Sherman Way," Granada Hills resident Ruth Alvarez said. "Some days I have to wait over an hour for

a bus."

Countywide Planning & Development is hoping to alleviate the situation. CP&D is responsible for carrying out the MTA's planning and programming responsibilities. They coordinate among 89 local jurisdictions, 16 municipal operators, special districts, and state and federal agencies to establish regional priorities.

One such CP&D project involves the Metro Rapid's Orange Line. The Orange Line is a 14-mile landscaped busway running across the southern San Fernando Valley from the North Hollywood Metro Rail Station to the Warner Center in Woodland Hills. When completed, it will travel 13 miles on an exclusive bus lane located in a former railroad right-of-way and one mile on city streets. Construction is already underway at several major intersections, including Chandler Boulevard at Laurel Canyon, and will last approximately three to five months.

please see *Metro* page 6

## 'Lewd'

continued from page 1

Police believe this incident involves the same suspect from a previous incident, reported Feb. 19, when police were called to the campus center when a woman leaving class saw a black male wearing hospital scrubs about thirty feet from her, masturbating.

When police searched the area, they found a man matching the suspect's description, including hospital uniform, smoking a cigarette behind the campus center.

Police detained and questioned the man for a field identification, but the witness told police it was not him and he was released.

"We take these cases seriously," said Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Detective Steve Gutierrez. "A campus like ours is a target-rich environment for sexual predators."

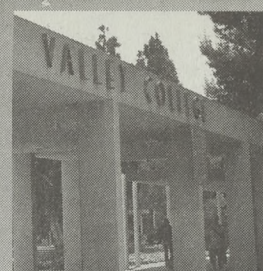
Authorities may be particularly vigilant in this case because it echoes a previous series of events in which a campus masturbator turned out to be a rapist.

After busts for lewd conduct at both Pierce College and Valley,

DNA testing linked 24-year-old Pablo Lopez to the unsolved rape of a 47-year-old woman at gunpoint in the bathroom of the life science building at Pierce in January 2001. He has since been charged with a second rape and the district attorney is waiting for further testing, which may lead to more charges.

Lopez is currently awaiting trial and is being held on \$1.36 million bail.

If anyone has information regarding the recent incidences of lewd conduct at Valley, contact the Valley Sheriff's Department at (818) 947-2911.

Paralegal Career  
Open House

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R.S.V.P.  
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## Los Angeles Valley College

## EXTENSION

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- Complete in less than 1-year • 400 training hours
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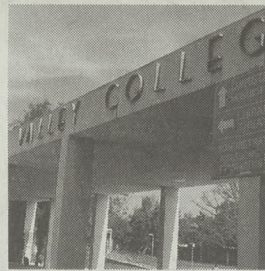
Top Salaries  
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818.947.2320 or email [goldmaa@lavc.edu](mailto:goldmaa@lavc.edu)  
FOR APPLICATION & INFO PACKET

Open House  
Studio Tour

April 21, 2004 at 7 p.m.  
Bungalow #25  
R.S.V.P.  
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## Los Angeles Valley College

## EXTENSION

Spring 2004  
New Certificate Program  
Complete in Only 6 Months!  
Commercial Photography  
Academy

This Certificate Program covers:

Introduction to Commercial  
Photography

Advertising

Fashion

Glamour Portraiture

Headshots

Wedding & Events

Digital Imaging/CD Portfolio

The Business of  
Commercial Photography

Tuition: \$450 plus \$15 materials fee  
Schedule: Wednesdays 7-10 p.m.  
Start Date: April 28, 2004  
Class size limited to 25 students  
Rod Lyons, Program Coordinator



818.947.2320 or email [@goldmaa@lavc.edu](mailto:@goldmaa@lavc.edu)  
FOR APPLICATION & INFO PACKET

## VOTE

For Your Associated Student  
Union Representatives  
Your Voice on Campus



APRIL 20 - 21  
MONARCH SQUARE  
9am-1pm & 5pm-7pm

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[www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

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## 'Blood'

continued from page 1

bles blood and contains stem cells, which produce red cells, white cells and other blood components.

The odds of being a match marrow donor depends on the rarity of the patient's tissue type. Tissue types are inherited. A patient's best chance of finding a matched donor is within his or her family, or if that search is unsuccessful, with someone else from the patient's own ethnic or racial group.

Only 30 percent of patients in need of bone marrow have a family member who can donate. Finding a bone marrow match is a difficult process. Nearly one-half of those in need of a transplant will die before a match is found.

Ben Vize, 34, a student in Franz's physiology class, endorses the offer. "I donate blood and platelets already," said Vize, a nursing major. "It's a good incentive for students and they can get extra credit while doing something good."

Currently, there are about 150,000 Southern Californians registered in the National Marrow Donor Registry.

A bone marrow transplant operation is a major surgery and professor Franz cautioned students that they don't actually have to go through with the operation in order to get the extra credit. "It's just a matter of registering," he explained. "Whether the student is a match or not or decides to go through with the operation is up to them."

For information about becoming a potential marrow donor, call (800) 246-7877, or access [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org).

## 'Pacesetter'

continued from page 1

rageous photo essay of last year's firestorms.

Every member of The Star's writing team took home at least one prize, with several capturing multiple awards.

"It's a wonderful feeling," said Abbott, "and since this is my second and last year with The Valley Star, winning first place in the Photo Story-Essay category is a great honor and especially sweet. Right now I am walking on air and I am very proud to be a member of the team of journalists that are now staffing one of the four best papers in the state!"

To view the award-winning photography of Abbott, Gallegos and Howard, please go the online edition of *The Valley Star* at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com).

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[TheValleyStar@yahoo.com](mailto:TheValleyStar@yahoo.com)  
[www.LAValleyStar.com](http://www.LAValleyStar.com)

(818) 947-2576

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# OPINION

3

## The Democrats, My Friend, Are Blowin' in the Wind

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"We keep hearing, 'I'm against what Bush did, but I voted for it.'"

-Al Sharpton at the USC Democratic candidates debate

Democratic leaders have been stomping all over the Bush Administration's treacherous war in Iraq, swarming, toga-clad, around the dimmest emperor as each new dagger-like revelation hits the media.

But why did so many of these courageous dissenters vote for the authorizing resolution in the first place?

The same goes for the USA Patriot Act, the tax cut packages and the unconscionable Medicare and education bills. And now they're perfectly happy to exorcise Bush for his proposed anti-gay marriage amendment - as long as it's clear that they aren't personally for gay marriage.

Yahtzee!

While John Kerry isn't anywhere near as guilty of flip-flopping on the issues as Bush's ministry of propaganda makes him out to be, the donkey party doesn't exactly stand on a rock of credibility when it criticizes the president retroactively.

Dems complain they were misled about the rationale for the war, that they believed what the administration told them despite the very loud protests of the U.N. weapons inspectors and the CIA's assertions that there were no links between Hussein and bin Laden. It seems more likely that those who voted for the resolution did so because they didn't want to appear soft on terrorism.

Well, you've got to stand for something ... or you'll fall for anything.

And make no mistake, the Republicans stand for something. Just not what they claim to.

There's no need to expound here on the bizarrely ironic names of Bush initiatives such as the Clear Skies Act or No Child Left Behind, but even ancient elephants are blanching at the president's don't-tax, do-spend, engineer-record-deficits economic plan.

In the end, though, coming out against gay marriage - making it a national priority by discussing it in the State of the Union address - is a brilliant move.

Bush and company can put their fists on their hips, capes fluttering in the breeze and say, "We do what we believe is right. You know what we believe in; they say they don't want gay marriage but they won't legislate against it. Who do you trust?"

And now we see a Democrat-led push for the reinstatement of the draft. How can you support compulsory military service while decrying the war as unjust?

Are the only choices before us really a duplicitous religious fanatic and a manufactured political product?

America needs better leadership than this. America needs someone who won't blow away in a storm.

There is still time for John Kerry to become that leader. But he's got a lot of standing up to do.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Revive the Draft? Bad Idea!

Re: "The Return of the Draft?" (March 31, 2003)

The draft has always been a bad idea in a country that considers itself free. A spirit of voluntary cooperation has always been a part of the American way.

Our all-volunteer army has served us well since the end of the Vietnam War, at least until President George W. Bush sent us on the fool's errand that was "liberating" Iraq.

Furthermore, the calls from Congresspeople like Wrangel, Hollings and Berman for universal service for people 18-26 are dead wrong.

I am all for adding even more positive incentives for military and other forms of public service.

Should we guarantee citizenship to those immigrants

who voluntarily put themselves in harm's way for this country? Absolutely.

Should we beef up the GI Bill to provide even more money for college after public service? Positively.

Should we provide student loan forgiveness for those who volunteer for public service after college? Unquestionably.

The government should have no right to "volunteer" its citizenry against their will for any sort of service. That's slavery. And that's wrong.

Representative Berman stands for re-election this November. Students should remember his unwholesome interest in "volunteering" us for public service when they go to vote.

MICHELLE KLEIN-HAAS  
LIBERAL ARTS (I) MAJOR

### ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS

## Obesity? Oh, Be Serious

### ■ Would you like to Supersize that lawsuit?

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON  
OPINION EDITOR

Obesity kills. We know that. The medical reports and statistics tell us so. And yet, many of us still relish those fast-food-craving moments when we say: "Big Mac combo, Supersize with a Coke, please."

And we know that munching on the 600-calorie Big Mac and the 610-calorie Supersize fries chased down with the 410-calorie Supersize Coke is not a healthy meal. Consuming a meal of this type regularly could result in weight gain, high cholesterol and other negative effects on our health. We know this and we eat it anyway.

Well then, why did the House of Representatives need to approve the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act, known as the "Cheeseburger Bill," to curb the influx of lawsuits against fast food chains for causing obesity?

"We as Americans need to realize that suing your way to better health is not the answer," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. "Trial lawyers need to stop encouraging consumers to blame others for the consequences of their

actions just so they can profit from frivolous lawsuits against restaurants."

Members of our government who are paid by our hard-earned tax dollars were forced to waste expensive time approving legislation that tells us that we are responsible for our actions.

"The fact is, it's ridiculous to blame a restaurant when a person eats too much food," said Rep. Pat Toomey, R-Penn., in a Fox News interview. "It's a person's own individual decision."

Well, duh.

I didn't need to read a government official's statement to know that.

McDonald's launched its latest marketing ploy, the Real Life Choices program, earlier this year to educate consumers on how to reduce carbohydrates, fat and calories by modifying their order - for example, order a Big Mac with all the fixin's - except the sesame seed bun. Messy ... but tasty!

Ordering a bunless Big Mac does detract from the flavor. Besides, the greasy burger filled with artery-clogging saturated fat is not exactly Tofurkey with alfalfa sprouts.

"People don't go to McDonald's looking for diet food," said Pam Smith, nutritionist and program developer. "But what Real Life Choices does is give them a chance to have food that will fit within their diet but still with that flavor that they're seeking."

The solution is simple: if you're dieting - don't eat at McDonald's.

And if you do - know that it was your decision that made those leather pants too tight.

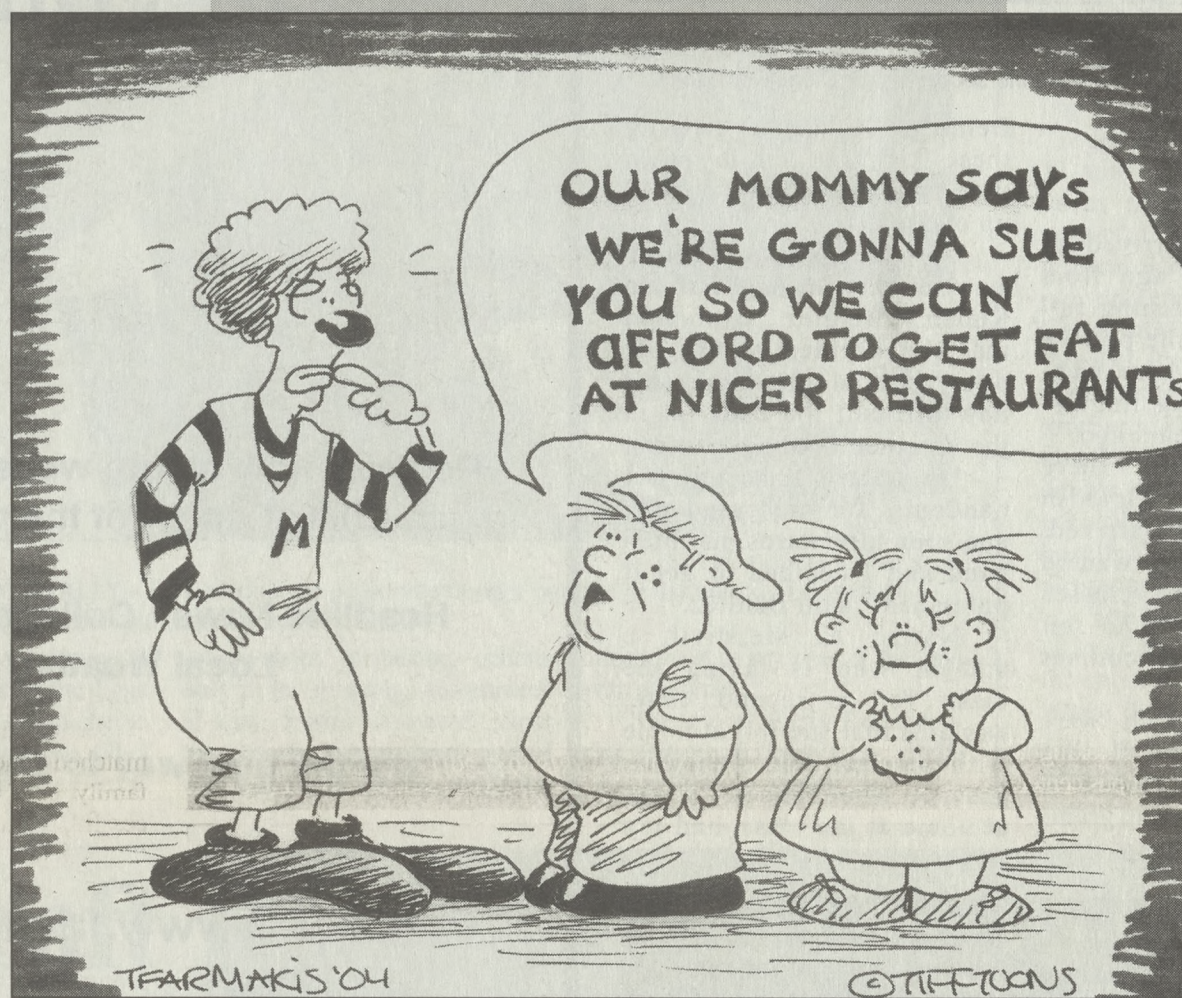


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

## ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.  
THIS WEEK: SHOULD THE U.S. HAVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE?

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

## "Administrative Waste" Not, Want Not

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
STAFF WRITER

Health care is a human right - unless you live in the United States.

Over the last few decades, there has been a steep rise in the number of uninsured citizens in the United States. According to a report from the U.S. Census Bureau, 43.6 million Americans, or more than 15 percent of our population, were without health insurance last year.

Millions of self-employed entrepreneurs, retirees, small business owners and consumers struggle to pay for the excessive increases in health care costs. Many have had to cut back on coverage, and some can no longer afford coverage of any kind.

Health insurance isn't a privilege but a right that must be granted to all Americans regardless of their employment status or financial situation.

Some wonder, if Congress institutes universal health care, will the government-run system be counterproductive to the quality of care?

Let's look to our neighbors, shall we?

Virtually every industrialized nation recognizes health care as a basic entitlement. Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom all provide universal health coverage to their citizens and receive better patient satisfaction ratings than American health care providers at a fraction of the United States' per capita spending on health care. More than \$1.6 trillion is spent on health care annually in the United States, equaling more than 13 percent

of our Gross Domestic Product; yet other nations provide more complete health coverage at much lower costs.

Critics argue there is no money to cover all the uninsured Americans, especially at a time when the country is running up huge deficits and many aren't willing to pay higher taxes to ensure universal coverage.

According to a study by Harvard University and the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the "administrative waste" in our current system provides more than enough capital to give care for millions of uninsured Americans. The study found that the overhead costs of private insurance companies equal 11.7 cents of every health care dollar, compared with 3.6 cents for Medicare.

Alex Gerber, M.D., a University of Southern California clinical professor of surgery and former health-care consultant to the White House and the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, argues that an incremental expansion of Medicare, over a period of years, would be the most effective and least costly solution.

Gerber also argues that people already pick up the tab for the uninsured.

"The uninsured are not dying in the streets," he said. "They obviously are receiving care somewhere - emergency rooms, public hospitals and clinics, or uncompensated care at private facilities with a 'cost shift' to the privately insured through higher premiums. We are thus already largely paying for the health care of the uninsured."

The money is out there, we just have to learn how to spend it. It isn't just embarrassing, but shameful that a country as wealthy and powerful as the United States does not provide what other modern societies have enjoyed for decades, the assurance that any person, regardless of his/her economic status, can receive health care.

## Single-Payer Systems Deeply Flawed

BY KRISTEN PRESCOTT  
STAFF WRITER

It's 3:15 p.m. Thursday and you're sitting in the waiting room at your doctor's office. You called Tuesday to make your 3 p.m. appointment, and now you're irritated that you have been waiting 15 minutes.

Consider yourself lucky.

If you lived in Canada, you may have had to wait as long as eight months to get an appointment and then another few hours in the waiting room. Canada's national health care system - the same one the United States wants to emulate - is seriously flawed.

In 2002, Canadians waited an average of 16.5 weeks from referral by a general practitioner to treatment. Cancer patients waited 5.5 weeks for medical oncology and 10 weeks for radiation oncology, according to a recent article in The Saturday Evening Post.

Women wait five months for

pap smears and eight months for mammograms. The average waiting period for elective surgery is four years, Jarret B. Wollstein wrote in an article on libertyhaven.com.

"Surgeons in Canada report that for heart patients, the danger of dying on the waiting list now exceeds the danger of dying on the operating table," according to a report issued by the Cato Institute, a public policy research foundation. Sometimes the elderly and those with less-than-promising prognoses are denied care altogether.

Many middle-class Canadians travel to the United States to receive routine medical care rather than wait months or years for care at home.

Who can blame them?

Access is only one problem with socialized health care. Modern medical technology is largely unavailable in countries with national health plans.

Little money is spent on hospital improvements, so sophis-

ticated diagnostic equipment, such as MRIs, is scarce.

Another problem experienced in Great Britain is that demand for health services increased when the cost was eliminated, Wollstein wrote. Doctors became overburdened with the influx of minor ailments (they spent on average less than five minutes with each patient) and the quality of health care decreased. In 1989, Britain began dismantling its National Health Service and reintroduced market-based health care competition.

New Zealand, which has a national health care plan similar to those in Canada and Great Britain, has recently decided to "end 40 years of socialized medicine by giving people tax incentives to purchase private health insurance and by introducing market-based reforms in the public sector," according to a report by the National Center for Policy Analysis.

Pressures in Canada are mounting to allow people to buy private health insurance as well.

If you're still not convinced that poor-quality health care, endless waiting periods and antiquated medical technology make socialized health care a bad idea, consider the cost. A single-payer national health care plan in the United States carries an estimated price tag of \$339 billion per year in additional taxes, according to the Cato report.

While other countries with national health plans are reverting to privatization after having failed miserably, the United States is eager to replicate their faulty systems.

Health care in the United States must change, but a single-payer national health care system is not the answer.

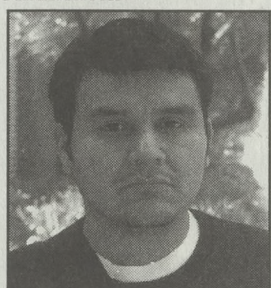
## CampusView

PHOTOS BY SEVAN GHAZARYAN



"We're paying taxes for a reason. That little something extra would be worth a lot."

- Azari Martinez



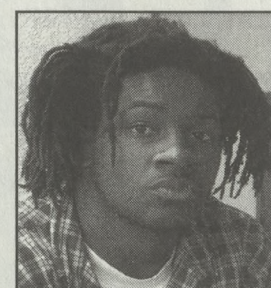
"There's a downfall and that's not good, but in the long run it's worth it."

- Alejandro Rodriguez



"It'll be better. Most people don't have insurance because it's too expensive. I pay \$200 a month."

- Jennie Monroy



"Paying more taxes isn't going to help us out. People suffer injuries every day and it's their responsibility to get [them] checked out. It should stay the same."

- Kevin Minikwy

## Should the United States adopt a Universal Health Care system?



## WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 14

### Peach Blossom Fan

A Chen Shi-Zheng production of Edward Mast's new adaptation of a Chinese opera classic from 1699. Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater at Hope and 2nd Streets in Walt Disney Concert Hall through April 24  
8:30 p.m.  
\$20-50



### EDITOR'S PICK

Twilight Singers  
Troubador  
8 p.m.  
\$12.00



Afghan Whigs frontman Greg Dulli returns with his new band displaying years of personal sadness on the 2003 favorite Blackberry Belle as heard on KCRW.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

LAVC Jazz Band,  
Woody James, con-  
ductor Music Room  
112  
11:30 a.m.

Dimitri Illarionoff on  
the classical guitar  
Music Recital Hall  
8 p.m.  
presale-2/\$15 or  
\$10 at the door



FRIDAY, APRIL 16

The Offspring  
Universal Amphitheater  
7:45 p.m.  
\$28.50



"Kill Bill Vol. 2"  
The second installment  
of Quentin Tarantino's  
masterpiece continues  
in his fifth film.

"The Punisher"  
FBI agent seeks  
revenge on those who  
murdered his family  
after his final assign-  
ment.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

They Might Be Giants  
UCLA Royca Hall  
8 p.m.  
\$25-35

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

The Darkness  
Henry Fonda  
Theater  
7 p.m.  
\$15.00



MONDAY, APRIL 19

LAVC Wind Ensemble  
Mainstage Theater  
8 p.m.  
\$5.00

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

No Events Scheduled

## VALLEY PEOPLE



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**SOCCER-TEACHER MOM** - Professor Maria Elena Frances-Benitez shows a poster of her favorite Argentine soccer player Diego Maradona.

### 'Teacher'

continued from page 1

Benítez, who arrived in America 37 years ago from Cuba, has been teaching full time at Valley for the past 14 years, but taught here part-time while studying linguistics at UCLA 25 years ago.

Explaining that there were no advanced Spanish classes when she arrived, Benítez says that she wanted to open fast-paced classes for fluent students who felt as though the other courses were too slow.

"A lot of the kids were bored in Spanish 1, but couldn't handle Spanish 4 [because of the exacting grammar requirements]," explained

Benítez. "I started helping these kids out on my own time, and soon after I opened up classes."

Co-writing and publishing a textbook with her husband Rubén, Benítez explained that she decided to use her own material once she saw how difficult the material in the assigned textbooks were.

"I started passing out handouts for my students, and soon afterwards, my husband and I decided to get it published," said Benítez.

Norina A. Mendivil, a student who is taking the class for a second time, explains that she felt at home with the class after a ten-year absence from school. "I feel at home at the class, and it's fun coming."

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\* Online-only features  
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\* Current movie showtimes and weather  
\* and the debut of the Valley Star's new literary journalism section, **THE BACK PAGE**

## FILM CLIPS

# A Big, Huge, Nasty Bucket o' Hell

■ When there's no more room in hell, the dead will walk the cineplex screens. Plus: Tom Hanks and Marlon Wayans meet the Coen Brothers.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

### Dawn of the Dead

Mekhi Phifer, Sarah Polley  
Dir.: Zack Snyder  
★★★★

Got a hankering for some good old flesh-eating fun? "Dawn of the Dead" hits the spot.

Remaking George A. Romero's '70s horror classic might have seemed like a lot to bite off, but this "Dawn" is markedly brighter than its source. Not only are the effects updated, but there's a delicious wit to everything from the choice of lines cannibalized from the original to the film's musical selections. When the fleeing foodstuffs, er, humans first take shelter in a shopping mall after witnessing horrors on a near-Biblical level, they hear a flattened Muzak version of "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

The plot is the same as the original, as it is in just about every zombie movie - It's about people, people who eat people. Those who object to becoming entrées barricade themselves somewhere and try to work together. Sort of "The Real World" meets "Survivor" meets the Book of Revelations.

First-time director Zack Snyder and screenwriter James Gunn (much more effective

here than with the terrible "Scooby Doo") clearly aimed higher than a simple fast-food franchise product. How many zombie movie casts boast two Juilliard graduates (Ving Rhames and Jake Weber), one indies-and-imports queen (Sarah Polley) and a sizeable star who played the lead in a modern Shakespeare adaptation (Mekhi Phifer of "E.R.," "O," and "8 Mile")?

It's not Shakespeare, but it's not dumbed down per the usual Hollywood recipe. The characters are less stereotypical than usual and there are gratefully few "duh" moments when they do unbelievably stupid things.

"Dawn of the Dead" is tasty fun. If you enjoy the movie enough to stay to the end, make sure to watch the credits for a surprise dessert.

### Hellboy

Ron Perlman, Selma Blair  
Dir. Guillermo del Toro  
★★★

Despite its outsider pedigree (a demon protagonist, a lesser-known comic source, "Hellboy" is utterly ordinary.

Occult elements are mixed with familiar teen angst in an effort to distinguish this entry from any of the other Hollywood comic book movies, but the formula produces a visually pretty but chemically inactive compound.

Self-pity takes the place of character development as a baby demon is recovered from a Nazi plot in World War II by a kindly nerd working for the Allies. Sixty years later, that nerd is played by John Hurt and the baby has grown into Hellboy (Ron Perlman of "Alien: Resurrection" and TV's "Beauty and the Beast"), the government's secret operative against "things that go bump in the night." The cigar-chomping, hyper-muscular, bright red behemoth is a sensitive soul who loves kitties and his fellow superfreak, firefighter Liz (Selma Blair).

Of course, the plot does not allow Liz to reciprocate that love until the usual third-act romantic resolution in 10,000 films you've seen. Along the way, Hellboy beats up a lot of evil demon dog-things that keep respawning, as do the other bad guys. Yes, this is one of those videogame movies where the bad guys get more lives than the good guys do. And by the way, the big villain is that Energizer bunny

of bad guys, Rasputin himself.

The film has director del Toro's ("Cronos," "The Devil's Backbone") strong visual sense and his weak interpersonal sense. There is no discernable tension. It feels slow and never challenges itself or us with something new and different. It even seems afraid to explore its own occult side, implying some interesting ideas about devils being space creatures but completely failing to explore them.

Bottom line, "X-Men" did it better.

### The Ladykillers

Tom Hanks, Marlon Wayans  
Dir. Ethan Coen, Joel Coen  
★★★★

The Coen Brothers' remake of the 1955 British crime comedy feels more like a Coen Brothers movie than their last genre outing, 2003's "Intolerable Cruelty." Their trademark absurdity and slapstick are present, as is the usual tight ensemble work.

But something is missing.

Tom Hanks is plenty funny as the convulsively sniggering Professor G.H. Dorr, the Poe-quoting mastermind of a motley crew of crooks. He smarmily charms his way into the quaint Southern home of Irma P. Hall as Marva Munson, an elderly, churchgoing widow who is not afraid of applying a "smiting" when she sees fit.

Among Hanks' bumbling helpers, Marlon Wayans is pretty much turned loose as the compulsively swearing gangsta-wannabe and Tzi Ma is suitably malevolent as a mysterious Vietnamese general.

The dialogue is sharp and the story moves crisply along until its final third, when it wobbles somewhat to a predictable conclusion. There isn't really anything wrong with this "Ladykillers," it just seems to lack the spark that made previous Coen entries such as "Fargo," "The Big Lebowski" and "Barton Fink" so special.

"The Ladykillers" is a charming distraction, but not particularly memorable.

## You've Got News



## Get The Valley Star in your Inbox

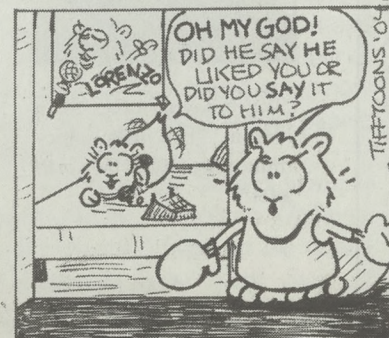
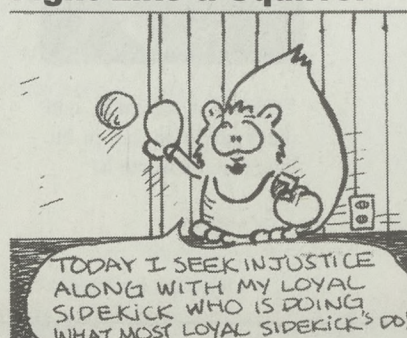
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### Fight Like a Squirrel



TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON



# VALLEY LIFE

5

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Health Food With Flavor

■ Health food with plentiful taste continues to be a Valley favorite with affordability and quality.

BY PETER O'CONNOR  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Health food junkies are constantly in search of a restaurant that is affordable and boasts cuisine with actual flavor. The Good Earth Restaurant and Bakery will satisfy your taste buds and make eating healthy less painful.

"There is nothing like it around," said manager Pasha Rami. "When my dad developed the menu back in 1991, he knew that fresh food and fresh ingredients would make for the best flavor and quality."

A moderately-priced menu and a feeling of tranquility make for a pleasurable dining experience that can be difficult to find on Ventura Boulevard. Gentle lighting and minimal noise pollution from other patrons allow you to listen to the trickling of the indoor fountain or enjoy the sizeable fish tank near the entrance.

"I like the environment and I like the people," said 11-year employee Ana Ponce. "The food is excellent too."

Favorites include the Chicken Piccata served with vegetables and brown rice pilaf or the succulent, fresh Atlantic salmon with its flavors. A passable choice of white and red wines is also available to compliment any of your dishes. Fresh pastas and casseroles, as well as specialties from the wok and more than a dozen salads are just a hint of the goodies in store.

Breakfast consists of vegetarian delights and the option of turkey sausage for those in need of their meaty morning desires. Grilled potatoes, pinto beans, ten-grain toast and pancakes or whole-wheat



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

**GOOD EARTH NATURALLY** - Sylvia Rosenbaum serves hungry patrons to the sound of waterfalls and the ambiance of the lush plant atmosphere.

English muffins are your choice of sides. Creative blends in the Eggs Lorraine served with cream cheese or the Santa Cruz omelette filled with artichoke hearts never leave

you without interesting options early in the morning. Assortments of teas, freshly squeezed juices or a non-fat yogurt shake packed with high-protein power provide an

added boost at any time of the day with any order.

The Good Earth Restaurant and Bakery is located at 12345 Ventura Blvd. in Studio City.

## UNPOPULAR FAVORITES

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



**Crowded House**  
"Together Alone"  
Capitol Records  
★★★★★

Why didn't Crowded House become the most popular thing since sliced bread? Its leader, Neil Finn, was one of the finest singer/songwriter/guitarists in pop history and the band itself was known for its fun-loving shows and daring, high-quality albums. Sadly, it just never caught on in the states.

Their band's crowning achievement was 1993's "Together Alone," a superb 13-song collection with gorgeous melodies, rich textures, powerful lyrics and inspired musical performances. If you're old enough to remember the Generation X banner film, "Reality Bites," you might recall the only hit from the album, the three-chord rocker, "Locked Out." That uncharacteristically simple but still irresistible nugget aside, this record typifies the best that the post-Beatles school of ornate pop has to offer.

The first track, the haunting "Kare Kare," is reportedly about the spooky area of New Zealand where the album was recorded. This is followed by the very "White Album"-like "In My Command," a hard-rocking

confession of the desire for power in a relationship. It features one of Finn's better middle eight digressions, *the screaming Desolate in anger and safe / in isolation, you're about to be the victim / of a holy visitation / by the rights I have been given!*

Next up is the shimmering "Nails in My Feet," Finn's melodic gift at its sweetest. Beyond the many virtues of the verse and chorus is another soaring digression, *Total surrender / Your touch is so tender / Your skin is like water on a burning beach / And it brings me relief.*

"Black And White Boy" is, according to one interview, about Finn's mercurial father. *You run like a cat to the cream / and you're acting so nice it's obscene / Do you really, really think I don't know?* This dark and hard-edged piece is, interestingly, recast as an acoustic ballad as on the B-side of its single release.

No stranger to irresistible urges, Finn imbues "Fingers of Love" with an unmistakable ring of truth. *Can you imagine that? / An itch to sensitive to scratch / The light that falls through the cracks / An insect to delicate to catch / I hear the endless murmur / Every blade of grass that shivers in the breeze / And the sound that comes to carry me across the land and over the sea / And I can't look up / Fingers of love move down.* The rhythm track moves like an inexorable engine behind yet another pristine melody.

"Walking on the Spot" and "Together Alone" are quietly indelible snapshots of marital discord. Their emotional spectrum ranges from the chaos so

please see *Crowded* page 7

## Art of the Craft

■ Workshops give a glimpse at real life experiences.

BY JOHANA MAAS  
STAFF WRITER

The Journalism Association of Community Colleges held its annual state conference at the Wilshire Grand hotel in Los Angeles last weekend, and 60 colleges came to participate. This year, that number included two from Arizona and even one (Lorain County Community College) from Ohio.

Those familiar with JACC regard the 600-strong gathering as the equivalent of the playoffs for community college newspapers, magazines and broadcasts, with competitions in more than 30 different categories as the schools vie for the coveted "General Excellence" and "Pacesetter" awards.

However, aside from the contests and enjoying time away from home with friends working together as a team, there were a variety of free workshops for attendees that didn't necessarily have to do with the nuts and bolts of writing. They all pertained to journalism, whether photojournalism, television, radio, Web design or other media.

Among them were three that concerned some of my favorite topics: leadership, music and nudity.

"Good leaders are focused on what's best for the group and organization; bad leaders are focused on glory with themselves," said Tom Chambers, editor and co-founder of 78, a magazine directed at college students in northern San Diego. (Along Highway 78, there are three schools: Cal State San Marcos, Palomar College and Mira Costa College.)

Chambers, an outspoken man in his late 20s, began by discussing the types of editors he's encountered, which led to the topic of his workshop, "How to Be a Leader and Not an A\*\*!"

According to Chambers, the qualities of a good leader are described by the acronym LEADER: Loyalty, Enthusiasm, Affirm and encourage, Danger (that number one danger being pride), Example (that the editor should be the first to arrive and the last to leave) and Responsibility (do what it takes to do stuff).

He was right on about many things, but one thing in particular that was solid was when he said that you should let people know that you appreciate their hard work.

"From 'Wardrobe Malfunctions' to Erotica: What Makes It Obscene?" was Mark Larson from CSU Humboldt's workshop. When he began with a quote from The Clash's "Know Your Rights," I knew I was in the right place, especially when he gave away a compact disc.

"You have the right to free speech / as long as you're not dumb enough to try it," sang The Clash's Joe Strummer, setting off a discussion of the line between expression and obscenity.

Larson talked about the infamous Janet Jackson breast scenario, which from the pitch of the reaction it sparked, must have burned the eyes out of the children who happened to watch the Super Bowl halftime show.

He described the incident as lacking political values, which most people in their 20s might look for in such an act, although he said it had scientific ones. The opinions he gathered from the room leaned toward a racial interpretation of Jackson's act.

"Covering the Music Industry" with E!'s Dave Adelson was one to remember. He had interesting insights about music downloading and how it has changed the way we

please see *JACC* page 7

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LAVC SCORES

**Baseball @ Santa Barbara (L 1-2)** 4/10/04  
Baseball Record: 1-26  
**Softball vs. Santa Monica (L 1-9, 5 innings)** 4/8/04  
LP: Amanda Salazar  
**Long Beach Tournament vs. Cerritos (L 5-19) vs. Cuesta (L 3-5) vs. Antelope Valley (L 4-7) vs. Grossmont (L 4-7)**  
Softball Record: 13-9, 10-8

LAVC SCHEDULE

**Wednesday 4/14/04**  
Swim vs. Cuesta 2:30 p.m.\*  
**Thursday 4/15/04**  
Baseball vs. Glendale 2:30 p.m.  
Softball vs. Bakersfield 2:30 p.m.\*\*  
**Friday 4/16/04**  
Diving Championship TBA  
**Saturday 4/17/04**  
Diving Championship TBA  
Track & Field @ WSC Prelims TBA  
Baseball @ Glendale 1 p.m.  
**Sunday 4/18/04**  
No Scheduled Games  
**Monday 4/19/04**  
No Scheduled Games  
**Tuesday 4/20/04**  
Softball vs. Pierce 2:30 p.m.  
Softball @ Mission 1 p.m.\*\*  
**Wednesday 4/21/04**  
No Scheduled Games  
\*WSC Meet  
\*\*WSC Gold Division

PRO SCORES

**L.A. Lakers @ Sacramento Kings (L 82-105)** 4/11/04  
Derek Fisher: 14 pts, 4-4 ft, 7 rb  
Karl Malone: 13 pts, 11 rb, 5 ast  
Devean George: 10 pts, 5 rb, 5 ast  
LAL Record: 54-26, Fourth Place West. Conf.  
**L.A. Clippers vs. San Antonio Spurs (L 79-88)** 4/11/04  
Elton Brand: 23 pts, 12 rb, 5 ast  
Chris Kaman: 14 pts, 6 rb, 2 to  
Chris Wilcox: 9 pts, 3-3 ft, 2 rb  
LAC Record: 27-53

NOTES

**NBA**  
The five-year streak of playoff appearances by the Philadelphia 76er's was ended Sunday when they were defeated 89-75 by the New Jersey Nets. Allen Iverson was not in the lineup for the 76er's.

**NBA**  
The Golden State Warriors defeated the Dallas Mavericks for the first time in 20 games Sunday with a 108-107 win. Despite the win, the Warriors will miss the playoffs for the 10th straight season.

**NBA**  
Los Angeles Lakers veteran forward Horace Grant missed his second day of rehabilitation for his injured hip Thursday, making him doubtful for a position on the postseason roster.

**NBA**  
Jamal Crawford of the Chicago Bulls scored 50 points in the 114-103 overtime victory against the Toronto Raptors Sunday. Crawford is the fourth player in the league to score at least 50 this season (Allen Iverson, Tracy McGrady, and Rashard Lewis are the others). Crawford is also the first Bull to hit 50 since Michael Jordan scored 55 in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals against the Washington Bullets April 27, 1997.

**PGA**  
Phil Mickelson won his first Masters' championship Sunday with a 31 on the back nine. He went 0-for-42 in major championships prior to this event.

**MLB**  
San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds hit his 660th homerun Monday at Pacific Bell Park, tying Willie Mays for 3rd on the all-time homerun leader list.

**MLB**  
NVE Pharmaceuticals, one maker of the popular diet supplement Stacker 2, filed suit to prevent the scheduled ban on ephedra, which went into effect Monday. U.S. District Judge Joel Pisanio is set to make a decision on the matter this week.

**MLB**  
Federal authorities probing an alleged steroid distribution ring seized the results and samples of drug tests on selected Major League Baseball players from Quest Diagnostics Lab in Las Vegas Friday.

**MLB**  
Bob Johnson, owner of the NBA's expansion Charlotte Bobcats, wants to add the Montreal Expos to his C-Set television sports network and has put his name on the list of people who are trying to get the team to move to Norfolk, Va.

**MLB**  
The percentage of major leaguers born outside the 50 states declined to 27.3 percent after six seasons of increases. Of the 830 players on rosters and disabled lists as of Sunday, 227 were of international origin. That is down from 230 players last year (27.8 percent). The Los Angeles Dodgers led the league with 14 foreign-born players.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

# Rookie Teen Freddy Adu A-didn't

■ D.C. United wonder kid has a so-so performance in his Los Angeles debut.

By BOB TEICHMANN  
SPORTS EDITOR

CARSON – D.C. United's 14-year-old rookie forward Freddy Adu arrived with a bang but left with a whimper. His team settled for a 1-1 tie against the Los Angeles Galaxy Saturday.

"We have to all be patient," said United head coach Peter Nowak. "He was all over the place; in the middle and left and right."

The 14-year-old Ghana native, in only his second professional game, was brought in at the start of the second half to a standing ovation from the Home Depot Center crowd announced at 27,000. He is the youngest athlete to play On a professional American team since 14-year-old Fred Chapman started for Philadelphia in Major League Baseball's American Association in 1887.

Adu controlled the ball on several occasions, and attempted his first pro goal in the 90th minute, with Galaxy goalkeeper Kevin Hartman making the save. Veteran midfielder Cobi Jones pressured Adu for most of the game, facing him one-on-one midway into the second half. Jones chased Adu from the United side of the field, slide-tackling him moments later.

"Cobi still has some wheels on him," Adu said. "He is an all-time great and I was really excited to be going up against him."

Soon afterward, Adu, a 5-foot-7, 140-pound teenager

opened his physical game. Los Angeles midfielder Andreas Herzog stole the ball, heading up the sideline. Adu chased him down, committing a foul and sending Herzog to the ground before he could score (Herzog is a former member of the Austrian national team, is five inches taller, 36 pounds heavier, and 21 years his senior).

"I lost the ball and wasn't going to let him go down on a breakaway," Adu said of the play. "Obviously it was a foul, and I admit it. But I did it to help my team out."

Jones was impressed by Adu's performance, including his 25 touches in the game.

"He's obviously a talented player," Jones said. "He's got a lot of skills. I still think he's got a long way to go to step up to the professional level."

Adu attempted other plays, including a precisely-timed pass to midfielder Bobby Convey while breaking through the defense in the box. Convey's shot, however, flew off to the side.

The only D.C. goal came in the 68th minute when forward Ronald Cerritos finished a set of passes from midfielders Earnie Stewart and Joshua Gros with a shot to the top right corner of the goal.

Los Angeles responded with an offensive show from forward Carlos Ruiz. He picked up a deflected pass, stood down D.C. midfielder Brian Carroll, then sent a right-footed shot over



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**A FOOTHOLD** - Los Angeles Galaxy veteran midfielder Cobi Jones, left, tries to keep 14-year-old D.C. United rookie Freddy Adu away from the ball in his Carson premiere at the Home Depot Center Saturday.

LINESCORE	1	2	F
D.C. UNITED	0	1	1
L.A. GALAXY	0	1	1

**LOS ANGELES GALAXY TOTALS:**  
TOTAL SHOTS: 9 (CARLOS RUIZ 3)  
SHOTS ON GOAL: 2 (DANNY CALIFF 1, CARLOS RUIZ 1)  
FOULS: 17 (SASHA VICTORINE 4)  
OFFSIDES: 1 (JOSEPH NGWENYA 1)  
CORNER KICKS: 5 (ANDREAS HERZOG 5)  
SAVES: 5 (KEVIN HARTMAN 5)

WSC SOFTBALL

## Lady Monarchs Letting It Slip Away

■ Playoff hopes dim after mercy kill at Valley.

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Lady Monarchs came in to Thursday's home game against struggling Santa Monica in desperate need of a win to breathe some life into their postseason chances.

They left on life support after an ignominious 9-1 mercy rule loss to the Corsairs (3-12, no preseason record).

"We've put ourselves in a position where we're relying on College of the Canyons to lose," said Valley Coach Frankie Garcia of the Lady Monarchs' playoff hopes. "We'll play better than we did today, but it's tough when you don't control your own destiny."

Valley (10-8, 13-15 overall) had been on a roll, winning several games over spring break, and had beaten the Corsairs in a previous meeting. Santa Monica's starting pitcher, Joanna Villa, stumbled out of the gate with a pair of walks and several pitches that tested her catcher's agility.

But Valley's hitters seemed anxious throughout the game, not drawing another walk after the first inning and collecting only four hits. Meanwhile, the Corsairs struck early and often, benefiting from Monarch miscues.

In the decisive second inning, Santa Monica loaded the bases with none out on a walk and a couple of soft singles. Valley missed several chances to stop the rally as pitcher Amanda Salazar coaxed two tailor-made double play balls out of the Corsairs' bats – but her defense committed two errors, leading to six runs. In the first and the third, Salazar was bailed out



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**LONG DAY** - Monarch second baseman Janelle Mendez sits at the on-deck circle during a 9-1 stomping at the hands of the Santa Monica Corsairs Thursday. The game was called off in the fifth inning due to a mercy rule.

by lineup double plays to left fielder Sandra Chavez.

"We fed off their mistakes," said Santa Monica Coach Shelley Beringhele, "We were swinging the bats all game. I told them, just put the ball in play and good things will happen."

Salazar left after the third inning, having surrendered nine runs (two earned), nine hits and a walk. Center fielder Heather Bates came in to restore order, pitching two perfect innings with a pair of strikeouts. She also collected two of the Monarchs' four hits.

Valley's best chance to get back in the game came in the fourth, with a pair of infield singles by Bates and speedy outfielder Alma Palacios – but a groundout snuffed out the rally. The normally potent heart of the order was held to a walk and

one hit – an RBI double by first baseman Alex Velasquez – by the Corsairs' Villa.

The umpire called the game after the fifth with the Monarchs trailing by eight.

"I think if we play better from here on out, our chances are good," said shortstop Christie Sotelo, who made several fine plays. "We just have to keep on fighting."

### Long Beach Tournament Non-conference games April 9-10, 2004

**vs. Cerritos (L 5-19)**  
**vs. Cuesta (L 3-5)**  
**vs. Antelope Valley (L 4-7)**  
**vs. Grossmont (L 4-7)**  
Softball Record: 13-9, 10-8

The Lady Monarchs suffered a weekend from hell as the softball team went 0-4 in the Long Beach City Tournament. They lost to Cerritos, 19-5,

Cuesta, 5-3 and to Antelope Valley and Grossmont by identical 7-4 counts. The four defeats dropped Valley to 13-9 overall, but they remain barely alive in their hunt for a playoff spot since none of the games were against conference foes. The team's lone positive note was that first baseman Alexandra Vasquez was named to the all-tournament team.

Next up for the Lady Monarchs is a do-or-die double header at College of the Canyons (23-9, 14-3 in conference), the team standing between Valley and a playoff berth. The results of that double header were too late for press time.

Upcoming Schedule		
Opponent	Date	Time
Bakersfield	4/15	2:30 p.m.
@ Mission	4/20	1 p.m.
Glendale	4/22	2:30 p.m.

WSC BASEBALL

## Monarchs Falter In the Clutch

■ Valley wastes stellar outing by Zakozek; fall to 1-26 overall.

By SAM HAHN  
STAFF WRITER

In a capsule of their entire season, the Monarchs couldn't collect a clutch hit to capitalize on starting pitcher Chris Zakozek's strong outing. Valley fell to the Santa Barbara Vaqueros 2-1 Friday to drop to 1-26.

"We seem to give up during the game and that's killing us," said Zakozek, who went seven innings and gave up just one earned run. "The team is doing okay ... we just have to keep going at it"

The Monarchs struggled throughout the game as Vaquero starting pitcher Justin Aspegren went the distance, striking out six and giving up just one run on six hits in nine innings.

The Monarchs kept themselves in the game when Galvez made a diving catch hit by Vaquero right fielder Jordan Ballard and doubled off Vaquero runner Jonathan Combs at first base in bottom of the sixth inning to save a run.

Valley's best chance came in the sixth, when they loaded the bases with none out. They only mustered one run from the chance, however, when pinch hitter Corey Brown's sacrifice fly drove in left fielder Amador Galvez from third.

After that, the Monarchs' offense faltered, picking up only two hits in the last three innings.

"We've had a problem all season performing in the clutch," said right fielder Anthony Mose. "We can't seem to handle pressure and adversity."



## 'JACC'

continued from page 5

buy music forever. According to Adelson, no one's going to be buying too many albums with the expansion of digital technology.

The same will eventually apply to movies.

He mentioned iTunes, calling it ridiculous to pay \$1 per song when you can get them free with p2p sharing programs such as Kazaa.

I would have liked to check out those workshops having to do with magazine writing and anything having to do with Web writing or Web design. They seemed like the coolest aside from music and entertainment.

Not all the workshops inspired fascination. "The Nuts and Bolts of Covering a Press Conference," wasn't exactly a title that made me rush over.

Those who take a liking to sports would have wanted to

strangle me simply because I would disregard any workshop's title with the word "sport" in it no matter how interesting it might have been.

Most of the workshops would fill up right away leaving about five chairs to spare in rooms of about 40-50 chairs, although some suffered from cross-scheduling and only drew a handful of attendees.

Tiffany Farmakis also contributed to this story.

## 'Metro'

continued from page 2

Los Angeles County, Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor and MTA Board Chairman said that he is pleased with a new Full Funding Grant Agreement from congress and the progress the MTA has made as a result.

"I'm delighted with the progress we're making toward completion of the Metro Orange Line busway project across the San Fernando Valley," said Yaroslavsky in a prepared statement, "and as the Eastside extension moves forward, our plans for a truly regional integrated transit network are really taking shape."

The Metrolink, the rail system serving commuters throughout Southern California, also has plans to alleviate the transit situation by proposing a 4 percent fare increase which, if approved, can go into effect as early as July 1, 2004. This would help offset

inevitable increases in costs to operate Metrolink service, and to maintain and expand facilities.

The commuter railroad also plans to restructure its fare policy starting July 1, 2005. Fares would be calculated on the basis of the driving miles between stations rather than the current zone-based system. This would result in fewer tickets being necessary but at higher prices.

"Planning your day around the bus schedule is a big pain," business major Paul Burke said. "I am hopeful that these improvements will make public transportation more reliable, especially for people like me who have no other alternatives but to take the bus."

For more information about

the proposed fare increase, Metrolink fares, train schedules, and directions to the nearest Metrolink station visit the Metrolink website [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com) or call (800) 371-LINK.

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## 'Crowded'

continued from page 5

beautifully articulated in the former to the painful resignation of the latter.

Two of the other outstanding tracks in the set, "Private Universe" and "Distant Sun," are among Finn's highest accomplishments. "Private Universe," as its name implies, creates a hermetically sealed environment for two, safe from the ravages of time and other people.

*I will run for shelter / Endless summer lift the curse / Feels like nothing matters / In*

our private universe. Its closing Maori-style drumming sounds as if it's meant to fend off incursions from the outside world.

"Distant Sun" is one of the best singles of the '90s. A plea from a lover struggling to understand his loved one, it takes off like a glider in its ideal pop choruses, heralding the moment when her seven worlds collide ... *whenever I am by your side.*

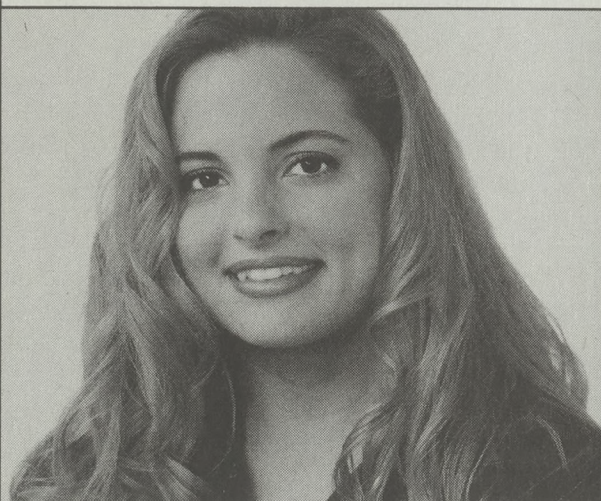
Its bridge bursts at the seams: *I'm lying on the table / washed out in the flood / like a Christian fearing vengeance from above / I don't pretend to know what you want / but I offer love.*

Unfortunately, American

CD buyers did not take Finn and Crowded House up on the offer. The collection was barely noticed in the states; the band broke up soon after.

"Together Alone" can be found at local used CD shops for between \$4.99 and \$7.99.

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- 5:00pm - 5:30pm - Welcome and Introductions
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm - Dinner
- 7:00pm - 8:00pm - Tour

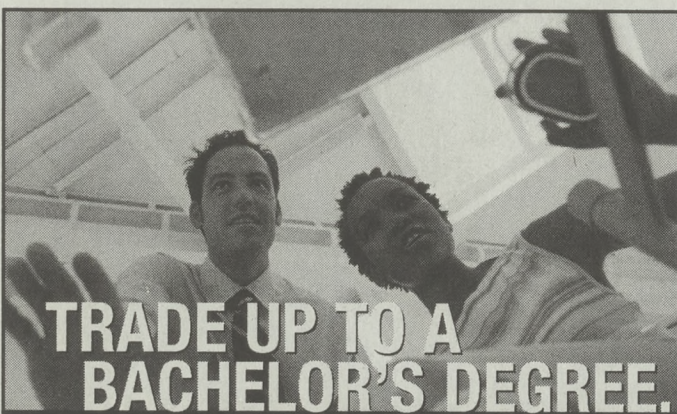
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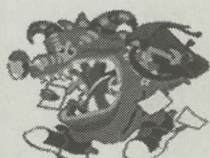
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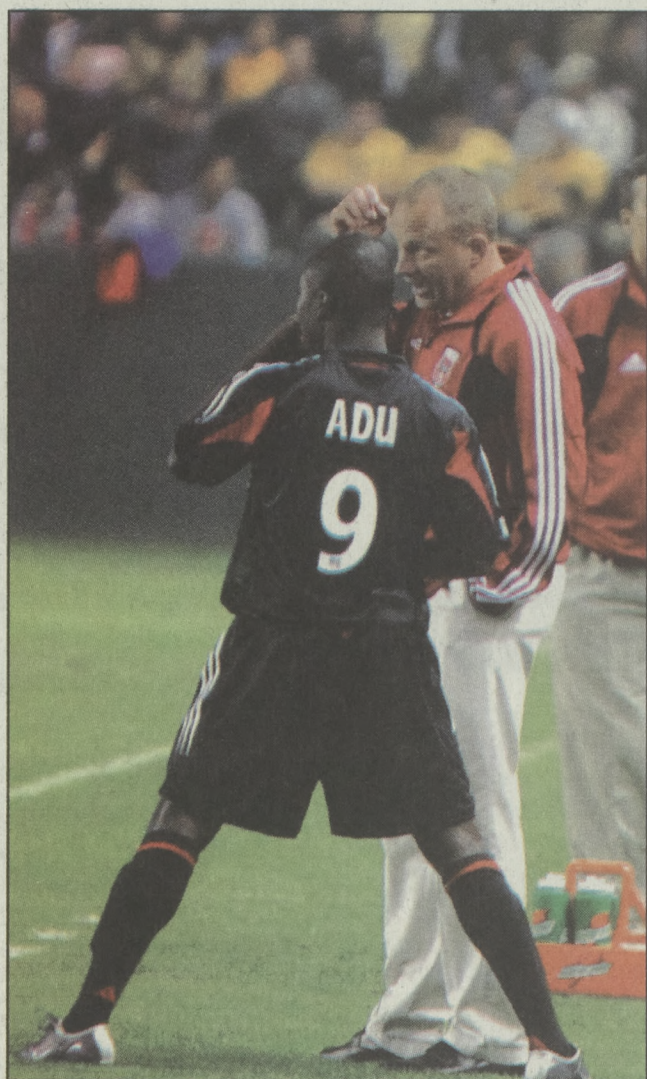


## GALLERY

FREDDY ADU STORMS  
MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

JORGE GALLEGOS  
PHOTOS AND LAYOUT

AND BOB TEICHMANN  
TEXT AND LAYOUT



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**LAST TALK** - Freddie Adu gets final instructions from D.C. United assistant coach Tom Soehn, right, before coming into the game against the Los Angeles Galaxy Saturday.

After being scouted by great international teams such as the Manchester United, Inter Milan, Barcelona, Chelsea, PSV Eindhoven and Real Madrid, 14-year-old Freddie Adu chose to sign with Major League Soccer's D.C. United. In doing so, a revitalized buzz about American soccer has returned to the sport.

A native of Ghana, Adu became the youngest athlete to play with a professional American team since 14-year-old Fred Chapman started for Philadelphia in Major League Baseball's American Association in 1887. Despite doubts from fans and critics alike, Adu has drawn sellout crowds in his first two professional games (24,603 in Washington April 3 and 27,000 in Carson Saturday).

With all the attention Adu has brought to his team and the sport, veterans of the game are taking notice.

"He's obviously a talented player," said Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Cobi Jones. "He's got a lot of skills. I still think he's got a long way to go to step up to the professional level."

"Too often, promising youth players are placed on a pedestal, and that's a mistake," said U.S. national team head coach Bruce Arena. "Freddie is without a doubt the most talented kid we've ever seen at that age."

The league has predicted a season of sold out games wherever Adu goes. There was a 1,848 fan increase at the Home Depot Center in Carson from the Galaxy's season opener to the second game when Adu and the United came to town. Adu has become an instant fan favorite.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**STEPPING OVER** - D.C. United forward Freddie Adu pulls back the ball by stepping over it as he tries to outplay Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder Cobi Jones.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**L.A. DEBUT** - Rookie sensation Freddie Adu waits on the sideline while assistant referee Chris Strickland announces his entry at the beginning of the second half.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**SPEEDY ADU** - D.C. United rookie sensation Freddie Adu, in his second professional game, takes on Los Angeles Galaxy defender Chris Albright during a game played April 10 at the Home Depot Center in Carson.



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**BETTER LUCK TOMORROW** - Galaxy midfielder Sasha Victorine comforts Adu after his disappointing Los Angeles debut.